

PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 4 June 2013.  
Subject to Call-in. Call in will expire on Tuesday 25 June 2013.

## WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall, Gainsborough on Tuesday 4 June 2013 at 7.00 pm.

**Present :** Councillor Malcolm Parish (Chairman – In the Chair)  
Councillor William Parry (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor Gillian Bardsley (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Richard Doran  
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan  
Councillor Irmgard Parrott  
Councillor Lesley Rollings  
Councillor Lewis Strange  
Councillor Geoff Wiseman  
Councillor Trevor Young

**In Attendance :**  
Rachel North Director of Communities and Localism  
Alex Reeks Assistant Chief Executive  
Nick Ethelstone Acting Head of Developments and Neighbourhoods  
Sue Leversedge Group Accountant  
Katie Coughlan Governance and Civic Officer

**Also Present :** Councillor Jeff Summers

**Apologies :** None received

**Membership :** No substitutes appointed for the meeting

### 7 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

This being the first meeting of the new Civic year, the Chairman welcomed all Officers and Members in attendance.

### 8 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

## 9 MINUTES

- (a) Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee – 9 April 2013

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 9 April 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

- (b) Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee – 20 May 2013  
(PRCC.01 13/14)

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 20 May 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to Councillors Doran and Parry being removed from the list of persons present.

## 10 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE SETTING OUT THE CURRENT POSITION OF PREVIOUSLY AGREED ACTIONS AS AT 24 MAY 2013 (PRCC.02 13/14)

Members gave consideration to the Matters Arising Schedule which set out the current position of all previously agreed actions as at 24 May 2013.

In response to Members' questions, the Governance and Civic Officer confirmed that both the "Open for Business" report and the Broadband Report would be submitted to the Committee in July 2013. In respect of the latter, it was confirmed that an update had been submitted to the recent Chair's Briefing and Officers undertook to provide this update to the interested Member.

Members also enquired what had been the impact of the recent free parking and Officers undertook to provide the Committee with this information outside of the meeting.

**RESOLVED** that progress on the Matters Arising Schedule, as set out in report PRCC.02 13/14, and the verbal update set out above, be received and noted.

## 11 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made at this point.

## 12 NOTICE OF MOTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.

At the Meeting of Council on 29 April 2013, the following motion, submitted by Councillor Jeff Summers, was proposed and seconded and in accordance with the

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provisions of Council Procedure Rule No.10 was referred to the Prosperous Communities Committee for consideration:

“Madam Chairman.

On the twentieth of March we held a training meeting ref “the sustainable communities act”. A very interesting piece of legislation, creating a route by which local communities (ie) West Lindsey can at speed present a proposal to national government ref a local need.

I am concerned that many rural businesses responding to higher energy prices and the needs of their customers are looking to erect wind turbines. Whilst I am not against these wind turbines in principle I do believe they need to be located close to the businesses they are intended to serve and not scattered randomly across our precious countryside.

At present local planning policy does not address this issue and national policy is also lacking. In order to protect the beautiful landscapes of this District we need to use the Sustainable Communities Act to get national government to change guidance so that it is clear proposals for small scale wind turbines should be located within 50 metres of the businesses they are intended to serve.

It appeared from the training we received that the government would approve such requests provided they contained merit and were supported locally.

Madam Chairman.

I propose we contact with haste our neighbouring authorities, particularly Bassetlaw and the East Riding of Yorkshire asking them if they would join us in making a request via the sustainable communities act for more appropriate government guidance to be approved for our rural areas. This guidance would ensure wind turbines are located in positions less sensitive to local communities and our natural landscapes.

I so move.

Councillor Jeff Summers”

At the invite of the Chairman, Councillor Summers addressed the Committee outlining the intentions of his Motion.

### **13 POLICY FOR SMALL SCALE AGRICULTURAL WIND TURBINES (ADDRESSING THE MOTION SET OUT ABOVE) (PRCC.03 13/14)**

The Committee gave consideration to a report which sought to investigate the use of the Sustainable Communities Act to provide more appropriate guidance on the location of small scale wind turbines in rural areas, in response to the motion, set out above, submitted by Councillor Summers.

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In presenting the report, the Acting Head of Developments and Neighbourhoods outlined the legal advice which had been received and which had informed the recommendations put forward to the Committee for consideration.

In responding to Members' questions, it was noted that a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was not subject to the same level of scrutiny and examination as the Core Strategy and thus was quicker to adopt and implement. However SPDs still needed to be evidence based and thus was the reasoning behind recommendation 1 as stated on the report. Members asked a number of further technical questions regarding the status any SPD would have going forward and in response were advised that the contents of the document would become material considerations when dealing with applications. It would contain more detail than current local plan policies but would not prevent people submitting applications and putting forward planning reasons for such developments.

Officers stressed that capacity could be a risk to completing the work within the timescales Members were expecting.

Members welcomed the motion and the idea to introduce a SPD. Whilst acknowledging Officers comments regarding capacity, Members were of the view that it was so important that the Policy was developed and implemented in a timely manner that, if necessary, additional Officers should be brought in to undertake the necessary work.

On that basis it was:

**RESOLVED** that:

- (a) Officers develop a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) regarding renewable energy, to follow the adoption of the Core Strategy, with reference to the siting of medium sized renewable energy wind turbines associated with rural businesses; and
- (b) Members use their political party to lobby the government on the policies related to renewable energy and specifically wind turbines.

#### **14 PROGRESS AND DELIVERY REPORT – CORPORATE PLAN AND FINANCE – PERIOD 3 (PRCC.04 13/14)**

Members gave consideration to a report which sought to provide an update on progress on the delivery of the Corporate Plan priorities and an update on performance of the service areas.

In presenting the report, the Director of Localism and Communities outlined in detail the progress made in each directorate, highlighting a number of the key

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achievements in each. The Council had continued to make savings, maximise income and been prudent when spending.

Members passed comment on the layout of the document and indicated in its current form it was difficult to digest. As the report contained a large amount data Members indicated it would have been of assistance if more commentary had been included around some of the data.

Lengthy debate ensued during which Members made a number of comments on the reports contents and a number of key projects and pieces of planned work contained therein. With respect to the Masterplan and other large scale projects Members urged that key stakeholders, including the public and local members, were engaged with at the outset.

Arising from the debate a Member made reference to the Summergangs Lane Travellers' site and number of repeated issues which were being experienced. The Members suggested that a site visit, with key stakeholders would be welcome.

Members also questioned whether the Council was purchasing properties in the South West Ward of Gainsborough, as they had been advised of such by local residents. Whilst not necessarily against the action, Members commented that if purchasing was taking place, Members should have been aware and made the decision through the Committee process.

Officers undertook to investigate the position and advise Members of the outcome outside of the Committee.

Reference was made to the Mr Big Project in Market Rasen, with Members not being in agreement as to how successful the project had been to-date. It was therefore suggested that a project update report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee and representative from Mr Big be invited to attend.

Finally, Members indicated they would welcome a progress report on the Health Strategy, assessing the impact activities had had to-date, what the current focus was, and what the focus would be on in the future.

**RESOLVED** that the contents of report PRCC.04 13/14 be noted and the actions detailed above be progressed.

## **15 LINCOLNSHIRE WOLDS AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN (PRCC.05 13/14)**

The Committee gave consideration to a report which presented the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan 2012-2017, prepared by the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service on behalf of West Lindsey District Council to meet the duty set down in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2000 Section 89 (9) and (10).

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**RESOLVED** that the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan 2012-2017, be approved, as the statutory plan for West Lindsey, as required by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

**16 CHERRY WILLINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA APPLICATION  
(PRCC.06 13/14)**

Members gave consideration to a report which recommended the designation of the area for the Neighbourhood Plans of Cherry Willingham.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (a) the Neighbourhood Plan Area of Cherry Willingham be formally designated; and
- (b) the suggested priorities for assisting communities in bringing forward Neighbourhood Plans be agreed.

The meeting concluded at 8.18 pm.

Chairman